

The Sun

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If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for
 publication wish to have their names returned, they
 must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

Widespread Gull.

In St. Louis on Wednesday another de-
 fender of law and order was murdered.
 DUNCAN McRAE, a special policeman pro-
 tecting a street car, its operators and its
 passengers, was shot while performing his
 duty. This killing of a man crowns the
 riotous outrages upon the street car com-
 pany and the general public of St. Louis,
 which have covered practically the entire
 line of travel for nearly three weeks.

Responsibility for this murder does not
 rest wholly upon the shoulders of the criminal
 who fired the shot. The spirit of riot
 has been cheered on by organized labor at
 large and by the weak and short-sighted
 emotionalists who look sympathetically on
 abuses of right and property when the man
 guilty of them belongs to a "labor union"
 or has less money than the victim of his
 assaults.

St. Louis is struggling stoutly against
 disorder which these unfortunate influences
 have begun and promoted. The city's
 efforts to protect itself should have the support
 of every honest man in America.

Filipinos Do Not Want Independence.

Gen. SCHWAN says in his interesting letter
 on conditions in the Philippines that the
 educated natives have no faith in the
 fitness of their people to govern themselves,
 and, for the most part, prefer American
 rule; and that the great mass of the peas-
 antry desire American rule or any other
 that will give them peace and order. A
 large part of both classes, however, are
 afraid openly to declare in favor of American
 rule, because they know that the in-
 surgent leaders, even with a small follow-
 ing, have in the past inflicted and may
 again visit the most barbarous cruelties
 upon peace-loving men and women who
 fall into their hands.

This statement is wholly in line with that
 of President SHERMAN, who, in his recent
 address before the American Geographical
 Society, declared that the Filipinos never
 asked for independence from Spain, but
 presented grievances and demanded redress;
 and that since the islands passed into our
 hands independence has been the shibboleth
 merely of a few ambitious leaders, while
 the masses, tired of war, crave only peace,
 and the aspirations of the most intelligent
 class will be satisfied with religious liberty,
 civil rights, and such extension of the
 franchise as the people are capable of
 exercising.

These views are further confirmed by the
 able correspondent in the Philippines of the
Evening Post, who said in a letter which
 that newspaper printed on March 16 last:

"They the Filipinos are quite open to immediate
 settlement at any time along strictly American lines,
 full freedom and religious freedom. Political
 freedom does not necessarily mean absolute political
 independence. The best of them is that they get
 sure that it is not demanded and is not really
 wanted."

The touching spectacle of 8,000,000 people
 fighting for the independence of their country
 has in fact been wholly evolved from the
 imagination of the Aguinaldo party
 in the United States. The Filipinos have
 not asked for independence, do not want it,
 and would not know what to do with it.
 The remedy they do want for the evils they
 have suffered for centuries is to be found
 along the lines of the American policy as
 indicated by the Philippines Commission—
 protection for life and property, religious
 freedom and local self-government where-
 ever the people are capable of exercising it.

The Difficulties of Anti-Trust Legislation.

Every political party which places candi-
 dates in the field at the Presidential election
 this year will have something to say in its
 platform against trusts. The difficulty
 of defining the precise thing which
 it is intended to denounce makes an
 anti-trust plank safe enough for anybody.
 No one can say that it will lead toward any
 particular method of procedure in dealing
 with the commercial combinations which
 are the objects of attack. "A trust is a bad
 thing; let's pitch into it," is the substance
 of the politician's reasoning on the subject.

In the recent debate in the Senate on the
 Army Appropriation bill, Mr. BERRY of
 Arkansas proposed an amendment pro-
 viding that in making purchases for the
 commissary department "preference shall
 be given, all other things, including price
 and quality, being equal, to those producers,
 manufacturers, merchants and dealers who
 are not members of or in any way connected
 with any trust or combine formed to
 produce, manufacture or sell the articles
 which are being contracted for and pur-
 chased by the commissary department for
 military service." The debate which
 followed showed how crude and ill-defined
 are the ideas of representative men in the
 national legislature in regard to the true
 character of trusts.

Mr. BERRY himself may have an accurate
 picture in his own mind of what constitutes
 a trust, but when invited to tell the Senate,
 by Mr. PLATT of Connecticut and Mr.
 SEWELL of New Jersey, he could only refer
 to the Sherman law and was obliged to
 concede that the definition of a trust in
 that statute was insufficient. The Sherman
 law denounces as illegal "every contract,
 combination in the form of a trust or other-
 wise, or conspiracy, in restraint of trade or
 commerce among the several States or with
 foreign nations." Here it may be said that
 the restricted element of the forbidden
 combination is a public evil, and that it is
 proper that the law should prohibit. But
 Mr. BERRY's proposed amendment to the
 Army Appropriation bill would prevent the
 commissary-general from dealing with any
 combination of persons or corporations
 "formed to produce, manufacture or
 sell the articles" which the Government
 desired to buy, although the combination
 might exercise no restraining influence
 whatever upon trade or competition. As
 was pointed out by Mr. STEWART of
 Nevada, the language of the amendment
 would prevent the military authorities of
 the United States from purchasing any

goods from partnerships, and yet nobody
 seriously advocates any such prohibition.
 "The trouble with all these matters" said
 the Senator from Nevada, "is that you con-
 fuse the good with the evil. I said in my
 beginning that the difficulty was in drawing
 the proper line. I have never been able to
 do it and nobody else has been able to do it.
 The only remedy that I have ever seen that
 would be effective is competition. We
 should pass no laws giving exclusive privi-
 leges. Let competition be untrammelled and
 a free people will soon rid themselves to a
 great extent of trusts."

After Senator PROCTOR of Vermont had
 pointed out that the law now limits the pur-
 chasing officer to buying Army supplies from
 the lowest bidder, and had intimated that
 Mr. BERRY's purpose in offering the
 amendment was merely to place the Republi-
 cans at a disadvantage because they did
 not believe that trusts could thus be exter-
 minated, the proposition was rejected by a
 vote of 29 yeas to 19 nays.

It should be noted that in the course of
 the debate Senator SEWELL of New Jersey
 had the temerity to say a good word in
 favor of two of the greatest trade combina-
 tions now in existence, the Standard Oil
 Company and the Sugar Trust. "The Stand-
 ard Oil Company," said the Senator, "has
 lit up the world at a cheaper rate than its
 predecessors ever did," and the so-called
 Sugar Trust "has cheapened the price of
 sugar every day since the combination, and
 has been a benefit to the whole world, and
 particularly to the United States."

The difficulty of dealing with great trade
 combinations by legislation is appreciated
 in quarters where such breadth of view
 might hardly be expected. Even such a
 socialist leader as THOMAS D. WATSON
 has said that the Republican party
 is not making and enforcing more anti-
 trust laws. In a recent interview at Cleve-
 land he is quoted as saying:

"Much has been said against the Republican party
 because of the great combination of capital during
 the last four years, but in reality the party is not
 responsible for that at all, at least not directly. This
 great concentration is but a natural step in the
 progress of events, and while it might perhaps have
 been retarded to some extent by legislation, you might
 as well legislate against the force of gravity. That there
 will be concentration is certain. The question now is
 whether it will be controlled by a few individuals or by
 the hands of the people at large."

If anything is attempted, however, in the
 way of law-making by Congress or in any
 State against the trusts, the greatest care
 will have to be taken to avoid putting down
 the good in endeavoring to put down the
 bad. A precise definition of the trade
 combination which is to be deemed
 unlawful will be essential. That defini-
 tion must not include partnerships or
 corporations designed to make money in
 the ordinary methods that have been sanc-
 tioned for years by the customs of the mer-
 cantile community. The element which
 is to constitute illegality must be distinctly
 indicated. This can be done in a statute,
 if the statute is drawn with sufficient
 care. It was done in a judicial de-
 cision when the courts of this State dis-
 solved the North River Sugar Refining
 Company for joining the Sugar Trust, on the
 ground that it was a violation of law for
 a manufacturing corporation to enter into a
 partnership. The only effective legislation
 against trusts will be found in the enact-
 ment of some simple rule like this, capable
 of comparatively easy enforcement.

In dealing with this subject Congress will
 have to take care whom it hits. There is
 danger lest it tread on the toes of the farm-
 ers. There was organized recently at Abilene
 the Knights of the Soil. Each lodge is
 called a Road Farm and is presided over by
 a Road Farmer. The purposes of the or-
 ganization are thus stated:

"It is the nature of a trust, in which farmers of
 the West are interested, to monopolize the
 transportation of grain and stock, to acquire
 by the head offices, the number of acres of grain
 raised and the crop held in stock. It is proposed that
 the members shall join their members to hold their
 grain for their own use, and that they shall be mutual
 assistance given to those who are in need."

A similar combination of manufacturers
 would be regarded in Kansas as a highly
 objectionable trust, which should be
 stamped out by law. But we have fre-
 quently observed that it makes a great
 deal of difference whose ox is gored.

The Transformation of Methodism.

The abolition of the system of itinerancy
 by the Methodist General Conference on
 Wednesday affords another among many
 evidences of the very great change which
 has come over Methodism of recent years.

Following the example of the Apostles,
 WESLEY, its founder, travelled about
 preaching his doctrines and would con-
 tinue in no one place longer than a few
 days. Lay preachers were commissioned by him
 as "helpers" were also appointed to "cir-
 cuits." In the early days of this country
 that itinerancy gave Methodism a great
 advantage over the religious denomina-
 tions which were stationary pastors; and
 consequently it rapidly developed into the
 numerous of the Protestant Churches.
 "We have found by long and constant expe-
 rience," said WESLEY, "that a frequent
 exchange of teachers is best. This preacher
 has one talent, that another. No one whom
 I ever knew has all the talents which are
 needed for beginning, continuing and per-
 fecting the work of grace in a whole con-
 gregation." That is, the Methodist preach-
 ers were organized as missionaries, some-
 what after the plan of the special religious
 order of preaching monks, the "mission-
 ers" of the Roman Catholic Church.

This system of the itinerancy gave to
 Methodism a distinctive feature in Protestant-
 ism and contributed essentially to its
 progress in this country, more especially
 as the system developed, along with the
 growth in population, the length of time for
 a preacher to remain in the same "charge."
 It was gradually extended from six months to
 one year, to two years, to three years, and
 finally, in 1888, to five years, and now, by
 the decision of the General Conference on
 Wednesday, the time limit is abolished alto-
 gether. The Bishop presiding over the local
 conference will still make the appointments
 annually, but the new rule leaves to his
 discretion the matter of a transfer and
 permits the retention of pastors by
 churches desirous of keeping them. How
 it will work practically is problematical.
 In the Bishops' Address to the General
 Conference they reported that the experience
 of twelve years under the last extension of
 the limit from three to five years had
 shown that actually the average duration
 of the pastoral term had been increased
 "but slightly, if at all," and that in practice
 "only a small proportion of our pastors
 remain in the same charge for five years."
 The Bishops advised, therefore, either a
 return to the three years' limit or the
 removal of the time limit altogether.

The desire for more permanency in pas-
 torates comes chiefly from the urban
 churches and their pastors; but in New
 York, at least, where Methodism is not
 relatively so powerful as elsewhere, its

character, as compared with the early
 model, has changed very radically. The
 plan meeting house of the past has given
 place to a pretentious church architecture,
 and such that development have come in
 worldly tastes and ambitions among the
 Methodists. They are no longer a "peculiar
 people," and the enthusiastic fervor which
 once marked their devotional exercises
 is now regarded as being bad manners.
 Wesley would hardly recognize them as
 Methodists for the grave and humble-
 minded people to whom ridicule gave their
 designation because of their plain and
 methodical manner of life. The day has
 arrived against which he warned his
 disciples, when wealth having come in at
 the door religion has flown out at the
 window.

Even in the rural districts the distinguish-
 ing features of Methodism during its first
 century have passed away largely. The
 fiery campmeetings, from which it drew its
 most powerful stimulus in this country, have
 lost their old character and become cold
 and tame and have been secularized to a
 great extent; and the chills have checked the
 growth of Methodism. Moreover, the scepticism
 introduced by scientific criticism of
 the Scriptures has entered into its theologi-
 cal seminaries and its ministry. Method-
 ists ambitious of social advancement are
 disheartened with the "methodical life" and
 its surroundings, and are dropping away into
 more fashionable churches. As the Bishops
 say in their Address, "the seriousness of
 life seems largely forgotten, its opportuni-
 ties of usefulness unoccupied, and the love
 of the passing world gaining in material-
 ness." Once, Methodists were distinguished by
 the plainness of their attire, the austere-
 ty of their lives and the piety of their
 speech, but that day has gone by.

The abolition of the system of the itin-
 erancy on Wednesday is only the latest step
 toward the complete transformation of the
 original Methodism which is now going on.

It is fortunate for the country that when it
 has a nervous, discouraged, pessimistic and
 complaining Statesman in the Senate, like
 the Hon. ROBERTS of Maine, it should have
 so solid a right arm, resource, far-seeing and
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 Has the Hon. JAMES J. HANCOCK MYERS an un-
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 Is it the Massachusetts House of Representa-
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 to the front lines of the war, and the order
 of the House of Representatives to order or
 order, is a Chicago statement in that body.
 He is beautiful and accomplished, famed in
 many arts and in many athletic diversions; but
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 Southern Society was followed by the Southern
 Industrial Convention in Chattanooga on May
 13 for the more progressive and comprehensive

development of the material resources of the
 States of the South, and especially such as
 are productive of coal and iron and are substituting
 manufacture for agriculture. The annual meet-
 ing of the American Medical Association, which
 will be held at Richmond on May 22 to
 consider the conditions and treatment of
 the insane and to provide for the preserva-
 tion of medicine-psychological teachings and the
 designing and construction of homes and
 institutions for the feeble-minded and insane.
 On July 7, in Charleston, the National Educa-
 tional Association, at which it is expected that
 over ten thousand persons will be in attendance,
 will meet to consider more modern methods for
 the educational interests in the South. The
 active or permanent members of the associa-
 tion number 2,200. In connection with the
 annual meeting will be an exhibit of school
 work, including some exhibits of manual train-
 ing.

The reunion of the Society of the Army of the
 Potomac will be held at Fredericksburg, Va., to-
 day, and on May 30 the reunion of the Confed-
 erate veterans will be held at Louisville, Ky.

Give us a Democrat—Cincinnati Enquirer.
 Where are you going to get him? Take your
 Populist medicine and try to look happy.

It is not easy to estimate the Hon. EDWARD
 OLIVER WALCOTT's actual political weight on
 the Republican Presidential ticket with WILLIAM
 MCKINLEY, renominated, but to para-
 phrase the language of the astounded passengers
 whom MARK TWAIN's pilot, Mr. B—, had just
 taken over the boats, the Hon. Edward Walcott
 would make a "lightning candidate."

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A CARD FROM BISHOP WHIPPLE.

Denial of a Statement Regarding Porto Rico
 Attributed to Him by Father Sherman.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: In the
Evening Post of today is a letter by Father
 Sherman of the Roman Catholic Church, in
 which he tells the public that in my recent re-
 port on Porto Rico I said: "Father Sherman
 and others have told me that I have never
 made this statement. I have never made the
 pleasure of meeting the son of my old and
 dear friend, Gen. Sherman."

Some months ago the leading papers of the
 country published an interview with Father
 Sherman, and it was to this interview which I
 referred and which I have not seen denied by
 Father Sherman till now when I said Father
 Sherman and others have already told the sad
 story.

Prominent residents of Porto Rico have more
 than confirmed the statements of that pub-
 lication.

The fact that multitudes of people are living
 together without Christian marriage, owing to
 the poverty of the people and their inability to
 pay the marriage fee, was told me by one who
 knows better than any one else the social con-
 dition of the island of Porto Rico.

If the moral condition of the island and the
 Christian faithfulness of the Roman Catholic
 priests have been what Father Sherman's letter
 would imply, no one will believe more heartily
 than myself. Those who know me know that I
 upon any who have made an attack upon the
 morality of the Lord Jesus Christ. I alluded
 to the religious condition of Porto Rico
 in order to show the grave responsibility which
 rests upon all Christian people of the United
 States to do all in their power for the uplifting
 of the people who, in the providence of God,
 have been placed under our care.